

# **State of Alaska FY2005 Governor's Operating Budget**

## **Department of Fish and Game AYK Region Fisheries Management Component Budget Summary**

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## Component: AYK Region Fisheries Management

### Contribution to Department's Mission

The AYK Region contributes to the department's mission by 1) ensuring the conservation of natural stocks of fish, shellfish and aquatic plants based on scientifically sound assessments; 2) sustaining fisheries based on the control and regulation of harvests through responsive management systems; 3) increasing fishery harvests and harvest opportunities of fish, shellfish and aquatic plants through the investigation of maximum sustained yield for individual and aggregate populations; 4) expanding fishery potential through identification of underutilized species/stocks of fish, shellfish and aquatic plants; 5) maintaining and enhancing opportunities for public participation in the development of fishery management plans and harvest regulations; 6) developing and maintaining comprehensive databases on commercial, subsistence and personal use harvests, and associated processing of fish, shellfish, and aquatic plants; and 7) promoting public education on the conservation, production, and economic and social benefits of yields from fish, shellfish, and aquatic plants.

### Core Services

Fisheries managed by Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) Region Commercial Fish Division staff are composed of complex and vast arrays of fish species, geographical locations, fishing gear, user groups and uses of the resource. Within AYK Region, aquatic species harvested in subsistence, commercial, and personal use fisheries include: five species of salmon, herring, king crab and a number of miscellaneous shellfish, groundfish and freshwater fish species. Approximately nine different types of gear are normally used in the region's fisheries. Some fish are harvested for multiple uses and have separate fisheries. For example, herring are harvested for sac-roe, roe-on-kelp, human food and bait. This mix results in a large number of distinct fisheries managed as separate entities. The remote and huge geographic area of the AYK region, which encompasses over half of the state, promotes numerous and complex fisheries, and extremely complicates management systems. Gauntlet-type fisheries the entire length of the Kuskokwim and Yukon River drainages are most challenging to manage. The Kuskokwim is 931 miles long; the Yukon River is 2,300 miles long. Additionally, the Yukon River is a U.S./Canada transboundary river. Residents draw on the fisheries for subsistence, commercial and personal use throughout the Alaskan portion of the drainage; aboriginal, commercial and domestic fisheries take place within the Canadian portion. ADF&G is recognized as the management agency for the U.S. portion in the Yukon River Salmon Treaty Agreement. The Agreement outlines the details of the salmon-sharing arrangement between the U.S. and Canada and specifies the responsibilities of the U.S. in delivering a set number of salmon to the U.S./Canada border on the Yukon River. The international Yukon River Panel, which consists of representative from Canada and the U.S., makes recommendations to ADF&G and Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans regarding the annual escapement targets for Canadian-origin salmon. Some of the tasks carried out by the region to provide its management services are:

- Development of preseason outlooks and associated commercial opportunity for salmon and herring runs and the Norton Sound king crab population.
- Development of management plans. The public and the Board of Fisheries are part of this process.
- Development of strategic research plans. Research planning is a collaborative approach involving public stakeholders, federal agencies, and state representatives.
- Collection of resource information, such as life history, abundance, and distribution.
- Collection of information, such as harvest by gear type, species, stock and location, number of units of gear fished, time fished, and fleet dynamics.
- Determination of reproductive needs, which includes escapement goals, and growth to maximize production; and once established, determination of allowable harvest.
- Manipulation of the fisheries in season by time and area to achieve escapement and associated harvest goals.
- Dissemination of information to the public includes fisheries information, regulations, harvest policies,

management plans, and highly technical reports from results of applied research programs. Research and management biology staff attend many meetings throughout the year to present plans, season reviews and future outlooks, and to answer countless questions from the public.

- Operation of the region's four year-round offices, about 30 data collection field camps and four field offices.

### FY2005 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

**FY2005 Component Budget: \$4,053,700**

**Personnel:**

Full time	29
Part time	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>

## Key Component Challenges

Resolution of federal subsistence fishery management implications and potential impacts across the region will require continued extensive involvement of regional and area staff and fiscal resources throughout FY2004 and into FY2005. Additionally, state/federal dual management and the associated necessary cooperation with the federal subsistence staff place additional burdens on staff.

During the past five years, the productivity of nearly all AYK salmon stocks has markedly decreased, resulting in dramatic reduction in total number of fish available for harvest. Accordingly, extensive fishery restrictions have been implemented for resource conservation purposes. Restrictions have had profound impacts on public stakeholders, the regional economy, and on ADF&G staff. Some subsistence salmon fisheries have been restricted and in some cases closed to provide for escapement.

Strategic research plans are being developed or updated in all areas of AYK. Implementation of projects associated with these plans will allow for more efficient management of fish resources of AYK Region in the future. After plans are developed, they will need to be updated tri-annually.

Many AYK salmon and herring commercial fisheries experienced a dramatic downturn in market demand and price because of record world salmon production levels and changing consumer demand for wild Alaskan fisheries products. Since 2001, some AYK salmon stocks appeared to be in the process of recovering from the production failure of recent years, resulting in some small surpluses available for harvest. However, a vast majority of available chum salmon surpluses were not harvested in AYK because of extremely poor market conditions. Poor market conditions result in continued adjustments of management strategy to meet competitive market windows and higher product quality requirements. These concerns are projected to continue during FY2005 and into the future.

## Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2005

The Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) Region Fisheries Management Component will reduce or eliminate several programs affecting the results delivered. These include eliminating funding for one Administrative Clerk II position and discontinuing the Northwest Alaska Bio Rehabilitation project. The impact of discontinuing that project is that the department will not support the restoration of several depressed chum salmon stocks primarily in the northern Norton Sound area of Northwest Alaska, which are stocks of concern under the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy. It also limits the department's ability to conduct restoration and enhancement activities for salmon in Norton Sound. This includes elimination of the Salmon Lake restoration/enhancement project that was designed to restore/enhance the sockeye salmon run originating from Salmon Lake and all artificial propagation projects designed to restore chum salmon runs to the Nome area tributaries.

One FT Fishery Biologist III and one PT Fishery Biologist IV will be split funded in the Special Projects Component. In addition, herring fishery monitoring activities will be reduced in the Kuskokwim and Cape Romanzof areas. Five non-permanent positions will be eliminated and an RSA to Subsistence Division to estimate subsistence salmon harvests will be reduced by 24%.

Core programs will continue, but management of fisheries will become more conservative or risk-averse.

## **Major Component Accomplishments in 2003**

AYK Region continues to develop and refine fisheries management plans and harvest management strategies to provide for the sustained yield of fisheries resources. Area-specific strategic research planning was initiated in FY2001 and continues to be developed for all areas of AYK. Additionally, in conjunction with federal agencies and regional organizations, an umbrella strategic research plan is currently being developed for all AYK Region through the AYK Sustainable Salmon Initiative (AYK-SSI). Completion of all these research plans is anticipated during FY2004 and FY2005. Further, scientifically based and defensible salmon escapement goals have been, or are currently being, established for many salmon stocks within the AYK Region.

Management plans in the AYK Region, which supports the largest subsistence salmon fisheries in the world, include provisions for ensuring priority for opportunity to conduct customary and traditional subsistence fisheries uses.

AYK Region staff provide accurate assessment and documentation of harvests, including species, numbers, location, time, gear and units of effort. These data are compiled annually and appended to historic commercial fisheries databases. Subsistence fisheries harvests are monitored through postseason surveys and inseason permitting processes.

AYK Region staff continues to be proactive with the public to develop and initiate cooperative fisheries resource assessment programs and more interactive, participatory management programs. Additionally, the Norton Sound Research and Restoration (NSR&R) Salmon Initiative and the AYK SSI, two federally funded collaborative salmon research programs, provided much needed salmon research money to the AYK Region. AYK Region staff are members of steering committees and scientific technical committees associated with these two salmon research initiatives. Other committee members include representatives from ADF&G-Subsistence Division, regional organizations and federal agencies. Additional federally funded support for salmon research in the AYK Region comes from the Federal Office of Subsistence Management and U.S./Canada Treaty Implementation funds.

AYK Region staff continues to be proactive working with the public to maintain, develop and improve commercial fisheries management to address the declining market value of salmon and herring resources. AYK staff has recently cooperated with the public to develop innovative ways of regulating, managing and prosecuting these fisheries to maximize the value of the fishery to fishers. A cooperative purse seine sac-roe fishery is now conducted at Nunivak Island.

AYK Region staff has initiated new fisheries resource assessment and monitoring programs to improve the responsiveness of management to industry and community needs for timely, accurate fisheries data.

AYK management and research staff participated in the Alaska Board of Fisheries process, Federal Subsistence Board/Regional Council process and U.S./Canada Yukon River Salmon Treaty process. Reports and fisheries data analyses were prepared to address fisheries management and conservation issues and concerns associated with these resource management processes.

Fisheries information was routinely provided to industry, resource users, federal agencies, regional organizations and the public at large through personal staff contacts, news releases, inseason teleconferencing with users and user groups, distribution of reports and electronic media.

## **Statutory and Regulatory Authority**

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### AYK Region Fisheries Management Component Financial Summary

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	FY2003 Actuals	FY2004 Authorized	FY2005 Governor
<b>Non-Formula Program:</b>			
<b>Component Expenditures:</b>			
71000 Personal Services	2,859.7	2,896.6	2,817.8
72000 Travel	166.4	199.2	190.6
73000 Contractual	607.9	532.3	688.2
74000 Supplies	357.5	330.3	320.6
75000 Equipment	124.7	36.5	36.5
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Expenditure Totals</b>	<b>4,116.2</b>	<b>3,994.9</b>	<b>4,053.7</b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>			
1004 General Fund Receipts	4,087.5	3,960.2	4,018.5
1109 Test Fisheries Receipts	28.7	34.7	35.2
<b>Funding Totals</b>	<b>4,116.2</b>	<b>3,994.9</b>	<b>4,053.7</b>

### Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2003 Actuals	FY2004 Authorized	FY2005 Governor
<b><u>Unrestricted Revenues</u></b>				
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Unrestricted Total</b>		<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b><u>Restricted Revenues</u></b>				
Test Fisheries Receipts	51064	28.7	34.7	35.2
<b>Restricted Total</b>		<b>28.7</b>	<b>34.7</b>	<b>35.2</b>
<b>Total Estimated Revenues</b>		<b>28.7</b>	<b>34.7</b>	<b>35.2</b>

**Summary of Component Budget Changes  
From FY2004 Authorized to FY2005 Governor**

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
<b>FY2004 Authorized</b>	<b>3,960.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>34.7</b>	<b>3,994.9</b>
<b>Adjustments which will continue current level of service:</b>				
-Transfer In General Fund from Headquarters Fisheries Mgmt Component, ADN 11-4-0067	249.0	0.0	0.0	249.0
-Changes to Retirement and Other Personal Services Rates	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.5
<b>Proposed budget decreases:</b>				
-Decrement General Fund and PCNs	-190.7	0.0	0.0	-190.7
<b>FY2005 Governor</b>	<b>4,018.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>35.2</b>	<b>4,053.7</b>



**AYK Region Fisheries Management  
Personal Services Information**

Authorized Positions			Personal Services Costs	
	<u>FY2004</u> <u>Authorized</u>	<u>FY2005</u> <u>Governor</u>		
Full-time	28	29	Annual Salaries	1,982,427
Part-time	68	60	Premium Pay	41,566
Nonpermanent	5	0	Annual Benefits	877,723
			<i>Less 2.89% Vacancy Factor</i>	(83,916)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>Total Personal Services</b>	<b>2,817,800</b>

**Position Classification Summary**

<b>Job Class Title</b>	<b>Anchorage</b>	<b>Fairbanks</b>	<b>Juneau</b>	<b>Others</b>	<b>Total</b>
Analyst/Programmer III	1	0	0	0	1
Analyst/Programmer IV	1	0	0	0	1
Biometrician III	1	0	0	0	1
F&G Regional Spvr	1	0	0	0	1
F&W Technician I	0	0	0	2	2
F&W Technician II	1	5	0	31	37
F&W Technician III	0	0	0	8	8
Fish & Game Program Tech	0	1	0	2	3
Fishery Biologist I	3	1	0	7	11
Fishery Biologist II	5	1	0	5	11
Fishery Biologist III	3	3	0	3	9
Fishery Biologist IV	4	0	0	0	4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>89</b>